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ABSTRACT

Although not every American is touched directly by violence, it is hard for anyone to escape the problems of violent crime completely. This book, designed for the education of young readers, discusses violence and explores reactions to it. It is stressed that violence is not a new problem in the United States or in the world, but rather a long-standing problem with roots in economic and social conditions. It is noted that young people in the United States, and those in cities in particular, are at greater risk of being victims of violence than are most other age groups. Teenagers are also disproportionately likely to be perpetrators of violence. The causes and impacts of violence are discussed, and the ways people are uniting to combat it are described. Two serious developments that have arisen as a result of increased violence are a surge in gun sales and a rise in vigilantism. No matter what the nation does, crime will not go away, but Federal and local efforts to combat it give rise to some hope for the future. The best way to control crime it is to try to prevent children from growing up to become criminals. Three graphs and numerous photographs illustrate the text, which also contains a number of sidebars highlighting the history of crime in the United States. (Contains 29 references.) (SLD)

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